N°1

Disinformation poses an important threat to the integrity of the 2024 US Presidential elections, with serious implications for democracy.

Firstly, one major issue is the potential to influence voter behavior through false claims. These misleading narratives harm candidates' reputations and shape public perception. For example, Donald Trump was falsely accused of using incontinence protection on a talk show, while Kamala Harris faced accusations of prostituting herself and running over a little girl. Such misinformation reinforces existing concerns, making it difficult for voters to distinguish reality from fiction.

Platforms like X and Telegram amplify these lies, with Elon Musk's influence on X showing strong favoritism toward the Trump campaign. The volume of disinformation overwhelms users, making it hard to find reliable information.

Then, there is the loss of trust in the electoral process. Foreign actors, especially from Russia, have been spreading disinformation to create doubt in the election's legitimacy. They produce fake videos and articles claiming widespread violence and fraud to frighten voters. This strategy not only influences the election outcome but also weakens confidence in democraticy. The cartoon in Document 2 illustrates this loss of trust, showing that even the truth can appear as fake news in such a divided environment.

In conclusion, combating disinformation is essential to protect elections and ensure public confidence in democracy. Authorities must act honestly to protect citizen's rights.

N°2

The Russiagate scandal perfectly examplified how disinformation on social media can influence elections, helping Donald Trump defeat Hillary Clinton in 2016.

This brings up an important question: what is threatened by fake news in the context of the elections? Said question can be answered in two parts: the citizen's trust in the system and their trust in democracy.

The trust in the system is crucial as voting implies trust. Which disinformation weakens, making society more unstable. As such, Chappatte's satirical cartoon highlights this threat with its toxic yellowish palette, depicting disinformation as a widespread habit for both men and women who look gullible on the cartoon, reinforcing the impact on trust. A limit of the document would be, aside from its inability to provide a date for context, its focus on only two actors of disinformation.

On that front, the article by Sarah Steffen brings forth a more exhaustive list of foreign political actors and media biases: Russia, China, AI and social media; especially when the social media owner sides with a candidate, threatening democracy as well.

Indeed, the tweaking of social media algorithms to favor a party also has a negative impact on democracy as it limits exposure to diverse opinions, pushing voters in the same direction. Democracy is also threatened by the imbalance in who spreads the most disinformation (the Republicans here).

All in all, disinformation threatens both citizens' trust in society and the integrity of democracy.

N°3

Disinformation poses significant risks to the integrity and outcomes of the 2024 U.S. election. In fact, spreading fake news about candidates, foreign actors of and the use of AI, are real threats to democracy and so the election.

To start with, false information that targets candidates like Kamala Harris and Donald Trump, aims to destroy their reputation and influence popular opinion. That false information seems now to be real for citizens.

Then, one major issue is foreign actors that have a role in the election. Countries like Russia and China have respectively posted fake videos to highlight the illegitimacy of the U.S. election, and used apps like TikTok to have an effect on voters' opinion on the candidates.

Telegram or X, owned by Elon Musk, is a well of disinformation which is seen by millions of people. This is reinforced by the algorithm put in place by Musk, which particularly favors tweets in favor of Trump who was banned from X before the buyout.

Finally, AI has a huge impact on the election, indeed the creation of deep fakes of celebrities such as Joe Biden and Taylor Swift, shows the danger of those tools which can disturb public opinion.

Disinformation during 2024 U.S. election is a real threat to democracy and requires lots of efforts to put an end to it.

N°4

The 2024 US elections saw a rise in the spreading of disinformation . While fake rumours around candidates have always been part of electoral campaigns , nowadays the massive usage of social medias by the people makes them more threatening than ever . We are going to ask ourselves what is at stake with disinformation and the 2024 US presidential elections ? First we will see that the USA's democratic system is also staked.

With the rise of social medias , foreign influence on a presidential election have never been easier . These new medias constitute an easy , cheap , and efficient way to disinform the American people . Russia for example , masively published articles and videos , in an attempt to create doubt among American people concerning the legitimacy of the election. The goal of course is to make Americans doubt the American democracy by implying that Americans are massively divided or that the election could be rigged: in short , to make people think that the county is on the verge of collapse. And even if most of the fake news are proven wrong, it still hurts the trust of American people in mainstream medias and therefore in the country itself. So all of this disinformation, in the long term, fragilise the union between citizens, which is essential to a democracy.

But the American democracy is also at stakes here. A democracy can only work if individuals are able to think and take decision on their own. However, with the massive spread of disinformation on social medias, which are part of our everyday lives, our critical thinking is on the decline. This neverending flow of news makes us interrogate less and less the information brought to us. In the document 2 we can see a man saying "even the truth looks like fake news!". The irony here is that he is assuming the headline of the newspaper is necessarily the truth when even himself can barely believe it and he is not questionning the information further. This lack of critical thinking is only part of what makes disinformation on social medias so efficient. While on television, candidates are supposed to have equal amount of time on air. But social medias platform can chose to promote a candidate more than another. That's what happened during the election with Elon Musk's political posts, supporting Donald Trump, being favored by the algorithm to reach as much people as possible. Even worse, he also relayed fake news about democrats that have been viewed 2 billion times because of him. Social medias therefore can create an unfair advantage towards a candidate or another, all depending on which candidate is the CEO endorsing. Bots promoting candidates are also part of what makes social medias an unfair ground for a campaign.

All of these practices are made to misguide the American people in their choice. Even if disinformation didn't "tip the scale" according to professor Curd with the rise of AI, it will surely have the power to be decisive in the future. And with the rising of global tensions, foreign nations will most definitely try to influence the vote to put the American democracy in danger.

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